

BUILD SKILLS

from Journal of the First Voyage to America

LITERARY ANALYSIS

A **journal** is a written account of what happens in a person's life each day. European explorers who came to the Americas kept details of their expeditions in daily journals.

- Journals provide details from eyewitnesses, or spectators who can describe what actually happened.
- Journals are accounts of the writer's personal reactions. A journal can reveal much about the writer's feelings, thoughts, and values.

READING STRATEGY

Authors have many different reasons for writing. **Recognizing the author's purpose** can help you understand why a work was written. If you know the author's purpose, you can also understand the word choices and ideas included in the written work.

Use this chart as you read Columbus's journal. List Columbus's favorable descriptions of objects, people, and events. Then explain his purpose for writing those descriptions.

Favorable Descriptions	Author's Purpose